

Title
Wildlife conservation and bird monitoring in Kuwait has been given a big boost with the launch of the Arabic Field Guide to the Birds of Kuwait. The Field Guide has been published by The Kuwait Environment Protection Society (KEPS, BirdLife Affiliate in Kuwait) and BirdLife International. The book was launched at a ceremony under the patronage of the H.E. The Minister of information and The Minister of Youth, Shiekh Salman Hmoud Al Sabah. The event is part of celebrations marking the 40th Anniversary of KEPS. The field guide is testimony to the work of dedicated field workers who have been monitoring birds in Kuwait for 50 years. The new field guide documents and describes up to 408 bird species recorded in Kuwait.



The book launch is part of KEPS's 40th anniversary celebrations.

At the launch event H.E. Sheikh Salman Al Sabah stressed the importance of Kuwait for bird migration and the importance of conserving the environment, habitats and biodiversity of Kuwait. Sheikh Salman said: "Wildlife persecution has been culturally and historically practiced in our part of the world and when we reach the point that we disrespect the ecological balance, persecution becomes a crime. Migratory birds need our help and support when passing through our country". Dr. Ahmad Al Ahmad, Chairman of KEPS noted that Bird Monitoring in Kuwait started more than 50 years ago, in times where national and regional capacities on bird monitoring were lacking. "Currently we are proud that this work is led the last 13 years by national team of professional birders making up the Bird watching and monitoring team of KEPS." The Bird Watching and Monitoring Team of KEPS was established in 2000, with focus on identifying and monitoring resident and migratory birds in Kuwait and advocate for its conservation. Having such a dedicated and professional team working relentlessly to identify and monitor birds is still quite rare in the Middle East. "The field guide represents not only a field guide but also an encyclopedia for the birds of Kuwait in Arabic and includes description to the habitats for these birds in Kuwait," said Eng. Abdul Mohsen Al Suray'a, Head of Bird Watching and Monitoring Team. "We are proud of this publication and congratulate KEPS and the team for its realization, and will contribute greatly to the advancement of the biodiversity and bird conservation agenda in Kuwait," said Ibrahim Al Khader, Regional Director of BirdLife's Middle East Division.